

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO

SUBJ: LUKENS' MEETING WITH LTC FERREIRA DA CUNHA,

CHIEF OF PRESIDENT'S INFORMATION CABINET, IN

CUNHA'S HOME NIGHT OF NOV 13

REF: LISBON 4917

1. CUNHA HAD WITH HIM XEROXED COPY OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOVIETS AND PORTUGAL WHICH WAS SIGNED IN MOSCOW AS RESULT OF CUNHAL VISIT. CUNHAASKED AGAIN IF SUBJECT OF PORTUGAL WAS RAISED DURING SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT. LUKENS TOLD HIM HE HAD CHECKED WITH WASHINGTON AND THE SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN RAISED. HE REPEATED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN NATO ALLIES WERE NEVER SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH USSR. DESPITE HIS APPARENT UNHAPPINESS ON HEARING THIS, CUNHA STILL SHOWED LUKENS DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS.

2. AGREEMENT APPEARED TO BE FAIRLY STANDARD FRIENDSHIP, NAVIGATION AND COMMERCE PACT. INTRODUCTION INCLUDED USUAN PHRASES ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION DESIGNED TO BENEFIT BOTH COUNTRIES. PROVISIONS OF NAVIGATION AGREEMENT WERE UNCLEAR BUT CUNHA SAID THESE MEANT THAT SOVIET SHIPPING COULD BEGIN TO USE PORTUGUESE PORTS WITH LITTLE RED TAPE AND THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN MERCHANT MARINE FLEETS WAS PROEJCTED. CULTURAL AGREEMENTS REFERRED TO EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS AND PPARTICULAR NEED FOR RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF METALLURGY. IN THIS REGARD, AGREEMENT EXPRESSLY SAID THAT PORTUGUESE NEPHELINE-

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SYENITES AND PYRITES WOULD BE SENT TO USSR. THESE ARE METALS

WHICH USSR APPARENTLY NEEDS. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT NEPHELINE-SYENITES ARE FOUND ONLY IN CANADA, NORWAY AND PORTUGAL. PYRITES COME FROM SAME ORE AS COPPER, SULPHUR AND IRON, AND ARE ALREADY EXPORTED BY PORTUGAL WHOSE PRODUCTION THEREOF WILL BE GREATLY EXPANDED AS PART OF SINES PROJECT). THERE WERE PROVISIONS FOR INCREASED CIVIL AIR COOPERATION AND A SECTION ON URBAN HOUSING AND TOURISM PROVIDING FOR SOVIET EXPERTS TO COME TO LISBON. INCLUDED WAS SECTION ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, PROVIDING THAT A JOINT COMMITTEE BE SET UP ON EXCHANGES AND THAT REGULAR SCHEDULES OF MEETINGS BE HELD TO ADMINISTER PROGRAM. AGREEMENT PROVIDED THAT TRAVEL EXPENSES OF TRAVELING GROUPS WOULD BE HANDLED BY RECEIVING COUNTRY. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON PORTUGUESE SIDE BY ALVARO CUNHAL, CDR. GUILHERME CONCEICAO E SILVA, SECSTATE FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, AND MARIO NEVES, PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO USSR. IT WAS SIGNED ON RUSSIAN SIDE BY ABOUT 20 PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO WRITE DOWN.

3. CUNHA WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOP WAS IMPRESSED BY SPEED WITH WHICH SOVIETS HAD MOVED AND THAT AS PART OF AGREEMENT PORTUGUESE SHIP FULL OF ALMONDS WAS ALREADY ON ITS WAY TO USSR. CUNHA WENT ON TO EXPRESS THE WISH, WHICH HE SAID WAS ALSO THAT OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, THAT THE USG MOVE EquALLY RAPIDLY TO HELP THE NEW PORTUGAL.

4. LUKENS EXPLAINED THE TECHNICAL TALKS TEAM MISSION TO HIM BUT CAUTIONED HIM THAT IT WAS AGAINST OUR POLICY TO GET INTO THE SORT OF COMPETITION HE WAS DESCRIBING. LUKENS POINTED OUT A FEW OF THE LLOPHOLES IN THE SOVIET AGREEMENT AND TRIED TO GIVE CUNHA SOME IDEA OF REALITIES OF LIFE AND FACT THAT SOVIETS DO NOT SIGN CULTURAL PACTS WITHOUT WANTING SOMETHING IN RETURN. HE TOLD CUNHA THAT USG APPROACH TO POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL DEPENDED ON GREAT MANY FACTORS AND THAT USG WOULD NOT BE AND COULD NOT BE PUSHED BY SOVIET TACTICS INTO MAKING COUNTER-OFFERS TO PORTUGAL. LUKENS REMINDED HIM THAT PORTUGAL WAS STILL A MEMBER OF NATO AND IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY WITH NATO COUNTRIES TO HAVE TO MATCH SOVIET OFFERS. CUNHA MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD CARRY THIS MESSAGE BACK TO COSTA GOMES.

5. IN OTHER COMMENTS CUNHA EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD SERVED WITH COSTA GOMES SINCE 1939 WHEN THEY WERE IN MACAO AND THAT THEY SECRET

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HAD BEEN CLOSE EVER SINCE. SINCE SEPT 28 CUNHA HAS BEEN TOP MEMBER OF COSTA GOMES STAFF, SERVING AS CHIEF OF CABINET. HE SAID THAT THE CIVIL AND MILITARY CABINETS HAD BEEN COMBINED SO THAT ALL PAPER WORK GOES THROUGH HIM. HE SAID THAT CUSTOMARILY HE WRITES COSTA GOMES' REPLIES TO ALL WRITTEN PRESS REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS AS WELL AS HAVING DRAFTED THE UN SPEECH. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MAINTAINING DIRECT CHANNEL OF INFORMATION, OBSERVING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

AND OTHER POSSIBLE LINKS TO AMERICANS WERE NOT TO BE TRUSTED BECAUSE OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION. INCIDENTALLY, A LIVELY POLITICAL CONVERSATION ENSURED AT DINNER WITH CUNHA'S THREE COLLEGE-AGE CHILDREN; ONE MEMBER OF CDS, ONE PPD AND ONE SOCIALIST.

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE THAT CUNHA IS SINCERE BUT TERRIBLY NAIVE. PICTURE HE PAINTS OF COSTA GOMES LEAVES ONE WITH IMPRESSION OF MAN WHO IS AVOWED ANTI-COMMUNIST BUT WHO IS SUBJECT TO GREAT MANY PRESSURES, PREVENTING HIM FROM EXERTING MUCH LEADERSHIP. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN ASKED WHY COSTA GOMES HAD TO RECEIVE GEORGES MARCHAIS, FRENCH COMMUNIST LEADER, CUNHA ANSWERED THAT COMMUNIST PRESSURE WITHIN GOVERNMENT MADE IT NECESSARY TO APPEAR TO BE EVENHANDED.

7. ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE TO KEEP CHANNEL OPEN TO CUNHA WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN FUTURE.

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